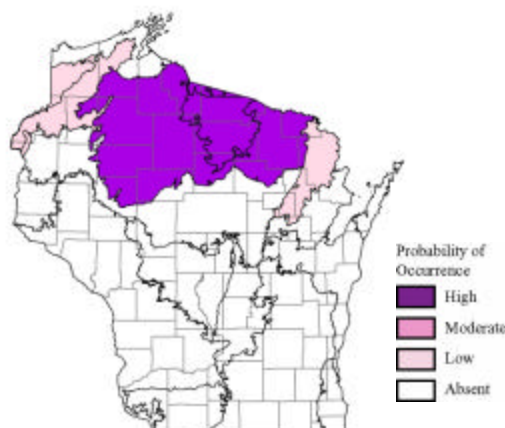


Spruce Grouse (*Falcapennis canadensis*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	5
State threats:	3
State population trend:	3
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	1
Global threats:	2
Global population trend:	1
Mean Risk Score:	2.6
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
North Central Forest	Boreal forest
North Central Forest	Northern dry forest
North Central Forest	Northern wet forest
North Central Forest	Open bog
Northeast Sands	Northern dry forest
Northeast Sands	Northern wet forest
Northern Highland	Boreal forest
Northern Highland	Bracken grassland
Northern Highland	Northern dry forest
Northern Highland	Northern wet forest
Northern Highland	Open bog
Northwest Lowlands	Northern wet forest
Northwest Lowlands	Open bog
Northwest Sands	Northern dry forest
Northwest Sands	Northern wet forest
Northwest Sands	Open bog

Threats and Issues

- Patchy distribution and small average population size in the southern portion of its range (including Wisconsin) make the spruce grouse vulnerable to extirpation (NatureServe 2005).
- Conversion or succession of jack pine forests to deciduous species has led to population declines (Robinson 1980).
- Loss, degradation and fragmentation of relatively young short-needled conifer forests, which are essential habitat for Spruce Grouse (Boag and Schroeder 1992).
- Spruce grouse are particularly vulnerable to hunting and exploitation because they are not wary of humans. Even though a non-game species in Wisconsin, some accidental take by humans occurs (NatureServe 2005).

- Need to gain a better understanding of current population sizes and distribution in Wisconsin.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Spruce grouse can benefit from forest management designed to retain pockets of short-needed conifers (spruce and fir with branches close to the ground) in mid-successional stages. For long term maintenance of populations, a large area with a mosaic of even-aged stands of jack pine and jack pine-spruce including an array of different age classes is probably ideal (Boag and Schroeder 1992)
- Education of upland game hunters in the vicinity of spruce grouse populations can be used to reduce accidental take.
- More research and inventory is needed to determine current population sizes, proper habitat management regimes, and where critical habitat exists.